

1 47. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the plurality of
2 program modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program
3 module, and a fully-dependent program module.

1 48. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the objective
2 criteria includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

21 49. (Once Amended) A method of handling a computer task using an intelligent agent,
2 the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) based upon an objective criteria, selecting at least one selected program
4 module from a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain
5 knowledge] autonomy, wherein the plurality of program modules are each configured to
6 handle a common computer task that includes conducting negotiations in an electronic
7 commerce application; and

8 (b) configuring an intelligent agent to execute the at least one selected program
9 module to handle the computer task.

1 62. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the plurality of program
2 modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program module, and
3 a fully-dependent program module.

1 63. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the objective criteria
2 includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

1 64. (Once Amended) An apparatus for handling a computer task, comprising:
2 a memory; and
3 an intelligent agent resident in the memory, the intelligent agent including at least
4 one of a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain knowledge]